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## Comprehension with Character: Lessons from Newberry Books

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# Comprehension with Character Lessons from Newbery Books



Dr. Karen L. Parker

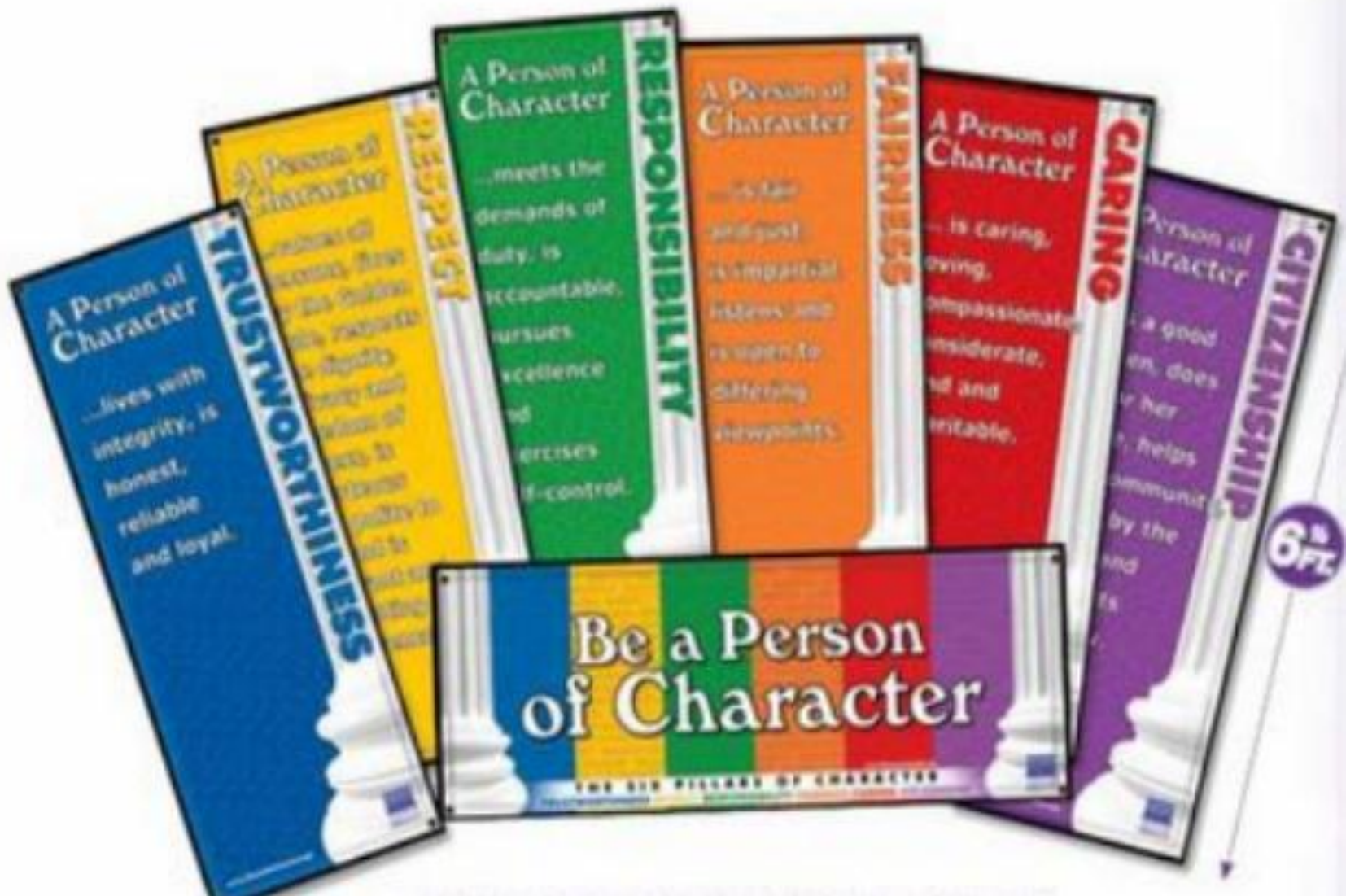
Dean, School of Education

# Beyond the Curriculum



In **ALL** subject areas,  
teachers have opportunities to strengthen:

- Character
- Comprehension



[charactercounts.org](http://charactercounts.org)



# Character



## **Book selection for character**

- Well-written books containing moral dilemmas
- Newbery Award

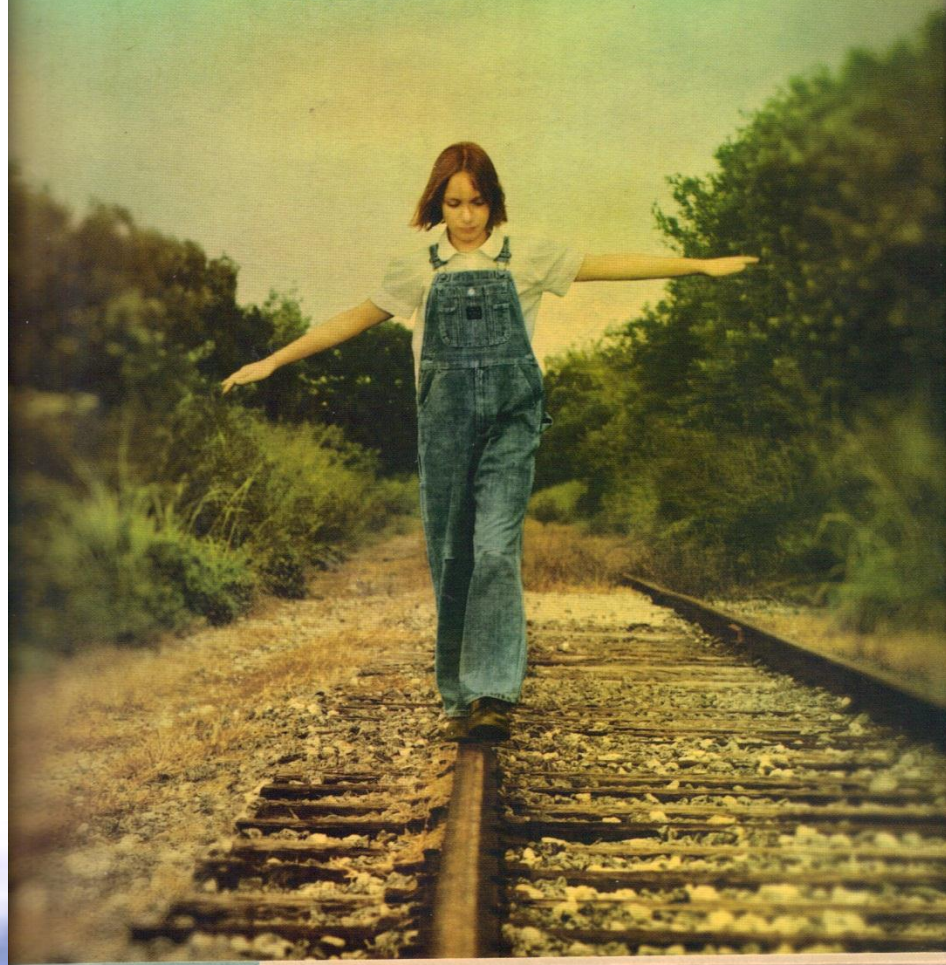


“The best book I’ve read in ages.”

—PATRICIA REILLY GIFF, Two-Time Newbery Honor Winner

# MOON OVER MANIFEST

CLARE  
VANDERPOOL



# Comprehension



Test scores indicate that our  
students are proficient in LITERAL  
comprehension  
but they are weak in  
INFERENTIAL comprehension

*But literal questions are used  
more frequently in class*

Failing to remember things is a problem that plagues most of us. We forget to perform routine tasks like stopping at a grocery store on the way home or picking up dry cleaning. Worse still, we may forget important information such as a new student's name. Fortunately, there are some reasonable solutions to our forgetfulness.

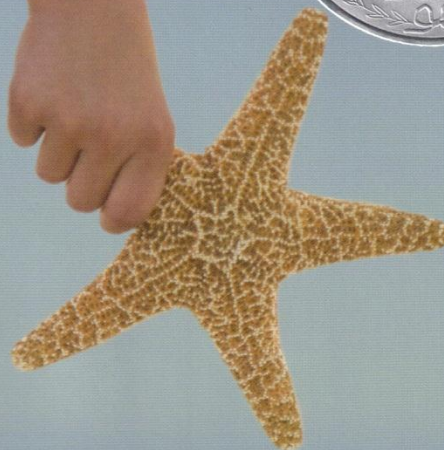
**1. What is a problem that plagues most of us?**

**LITERAL** - *“Put your finger on the answer”*

**2. What audience is being addressed?**

**INFERENTIAL** - *“Put your finger on the CLUES”*





# Turtle in Paradise

JENNIFER L. HOLM

*New York Times* Bestselling and Two-Time Newbery Honor-Winning Author



# Comprehension



Tw'as brillig, and the slithy toves  
Did gyre and gimble in the wabe;  
All mimsy were the borogroves,  
And the mome raths outgrabe.

**1. What were the toves doing?**

**LITERAL -** *“Put your finger on the answer”*

**2. Where were they doing it?**

**LITERAL -** *“Put your finger on the answer”*

“Jabberwocky,” by Lewis Carroll

# Comprehension



Comprehension worksheets  
may emphasize  
“Jabberwocky questions”

*LITERAL level questions  
that can be answered  
based on sentence structure  
without understanding the passage*



A NOVEL INSPIRED BY A TRUE ADVENTURE ON THE HIGH SEAS

# HEART of a SAMURAI

Margi Preus



# Comprehension



When his dinner finally arrived, Tony ate hurriedly and left a very small tip.

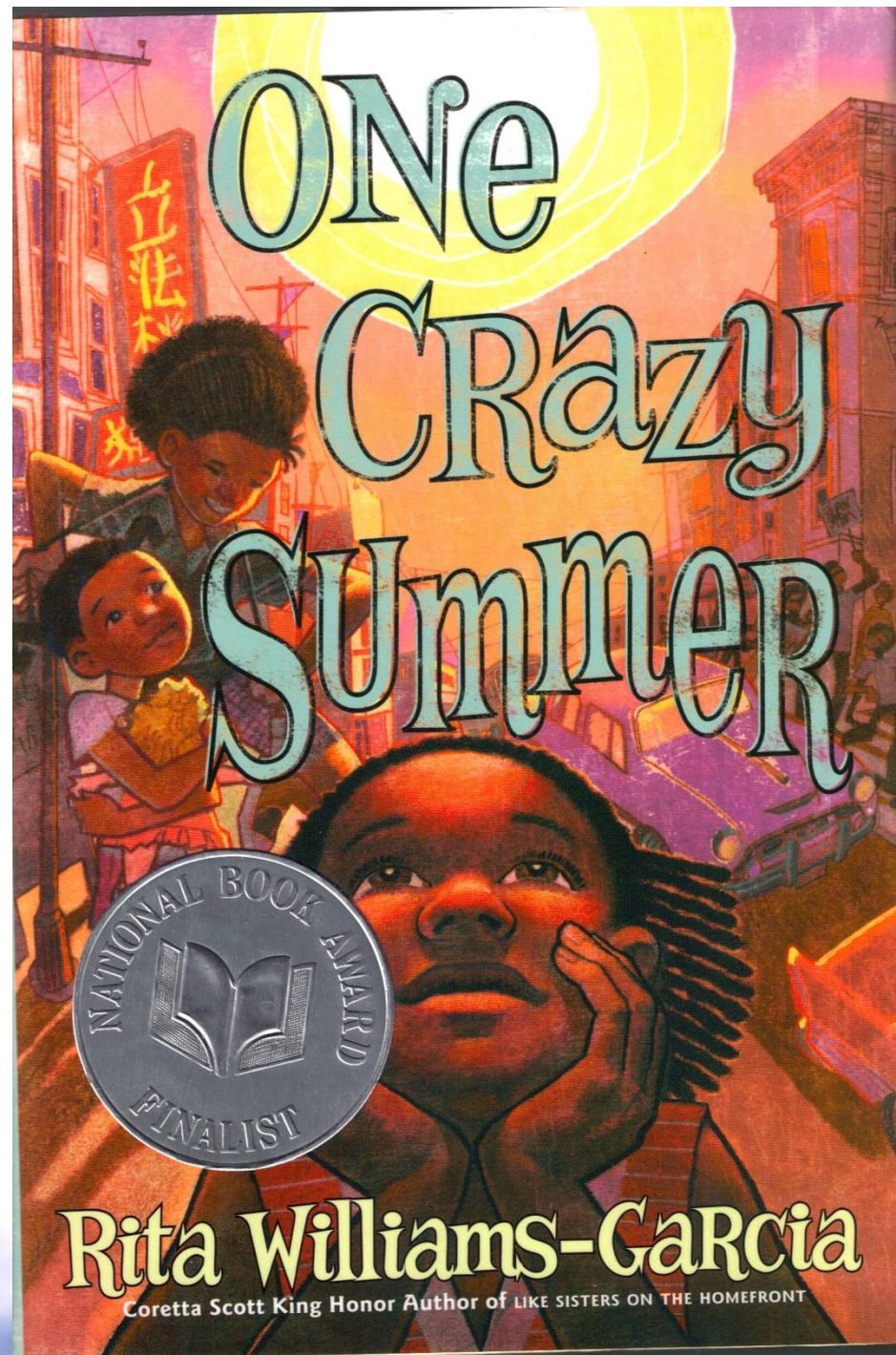
1. Where does this story occur?

**INFERENCE** - *“Put your finger on the CLUES”*

2. Was Tony in a good mood?

**INFERENCE** - *“Put your finger on the CLUES”*





# Comprehension



## Use thoughtful questions

- What is this book going to be about?
- What's going to happen next?
- How is he going to solve his problem?
- How do you know?
- What makes you think that will happen?



by Joyce Sidman  
illustrated by Rick Allen



# Dark Emperor

& Other Poems of the Night



# Comprehension with Character

